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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
TELETYPE INFORMATION REPORT

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CLASSIFICATION

SECRET

1 NOVEMBER 1956

PRECEDENCE

☐ ROUTINE

PRIORITY

COUNTRY

EAST GERMANY

SUBJECT

VIEW OF EAST GERMAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ON FUTURE EAST GERMAN DEVELOPMENTS

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1. CONTINUED SOVIET CONTROL OF EAST GERMANY IS AN ABSOLUTE FACT IN THE MINDS OF EAST GERMAN FUNCTIONARIES. THE FIRST INDICATION OF THIS FACT WAS GIVEN DURING THE BULGANIN-KHRUSHCHEV VISIT TO EAST BERLIN AFTER THE GENEVA CONFERENCE IN THE SUMMER OF 1955. AT THAT TIME, THE EAST GERMAN COMMUNISTS HAD CONSIDERABLE FEAR THAT THE SOVIETS MIGHT EXPOSE EAST GERMANY TO REUNIFICATION. WHEN THESE FEARS WERE MADE KNOWN TO THE SOVIETS, THE LATTER MADE IT CLEAR THAT THEY WOULD NEVER FORSAKE THE EAST GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC. THIS INTENTION APPEARS CLEARER TODAY THAN EVER BEFORE. IN THE OPINION OF THE EAST GERMAN OFFICIALS, THE SOVIETS HAVE SCRATCHED HUNGARY FROM THEIR BOOKS. THEY ALSO THINK THAT IF THE PRESSURE WERE STRONG ENOUGH, THE SOVIETS WOULD BE WILLING TO GIVE UP ALL OTHER SATELLITES WITH TWO ABSOLUTE EXCEPTIONS, I.E., EAST GERMANY

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AND CHINA. THE USSR NEEDS EAST GERMANY BECAUSE OF ITS INDUSTRIAL CAPACITY AND MANPOWER. ([REDACTED] COMMENT: PRESUMABLY MANPOWER UNDERSTOOD IN THE QUALITATIVE RATHER THAN IN THE QUANTITATIVE SENSE.) AS EVIDENCE FOR THIS BELIEF, THE EAST GERMAN FUNCTIONARIES CITE THE GREAT SPEED WITH WHICH THE USSR HAS GRANTED CREDITS TO EAST GERMANY IN RECENT MONTHS. THE SOVIETS ARE CONVINCED THAT THEY CAN RETAIN THEIR HOLD ON EAST GERMANY, BELIEVING THAT NO NATION WOULD RISK A WAR TO CHALLENGE THEIR CONTROL.

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2. AS OF 29 OCTOBER, SIGNS OF ANY FORM OF UNREST OR REBELLION IN EAST GERMANY WERE NOT IN EVIDENCE.
3. FOR THE DURATION OF THE PRESENT SITUATION IN THE SATELLITES, ALL EAST GERMAN FUNCTIONARIES ARE ABSOLUTELY FORBIDDEN TO GO TO WEST BERLIN. IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT THIS PROHIBITION WILL BE LIFTED AS SOON AS THE PRESENT CRISIS HAS BEEN OVERCOME.
4. IT IS GENERALLY AGREED THAT WALTER ULBRICHT, FIRST SECRETARY OF THE SED, WILL NOT BE RELIEVED OF HIS POST UNTIL THE UNREST IN THE OTHER SATELLITES HAS CALMED DOWN. A REMOVAL OF ULBRICHT AT THE PRESENT TIME OR ANY OTHER INDICATION OF CHANGE AND REFORM WOULD BE INTERPRETTED BY THE PEOPLE AS AN INDICATION OF WEAKNESS AND COULD LEAD TO A REVOLUTION. NO APPARENT CHANGES IN GOVERNMENT POLICY SHOULD BE ATTACHED TO ULBRICHT'S DEPARTURE WHICH, WHEN IT COMES, WILL BE ON GROUNDS OF ILL HEALTH.
5. ALL FORMS OF COMMUNICATION IN EAST GERMANY ARE UNDER MAXIMUM CONTROL. IT IS APPARENT THAT THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO CONTROL COMMUNICATION TO THE WEST,

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SINCE IT IS FELT THAT ANY WESTERN ASSISTANCE WILL COME VIA WEST BERLIN. THE HIGHEST STAGE OF ALERT EXISTS THROUGHOUT EAST GERMANY SO THAT ANY UNREST, SHOULD IT OCCUR, CAN BE CRUSHED IN THE BEGINNING. BETRIEBSKAMPFGRUPPEN (FACTORY COMBAT GROUPS) ARMED WITH SUBMACHINEGUNS WILL FORM THE FIRST LINE OF ANY MILITARY ACTION. THE POLICE, NVA AND THE SOVIET FORCES ARE TO BE KEPT IN THE BACKGROUND AND WOULD BE CALLED UPON ONLY IF IT SHOULD BECOME APPARENT THAT THE UPRISING COULD NOT BE CONTROLLED BY THE BETRIEBSKAMPFGRUPPEN.

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END OF MESSAGE

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